



Minnesota Quilters Inc. 31st Annual Quilt Show & Conference Vendor Information and Application

The Organization

Minnesota Quilters, Inc. (MQ) is a volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Formed and incorporated in 1978, the organization is dedicated to the celebration of quilting. Our activities and events are structured to honor the past, celebrate the present, and nurture the future of this time-honored, traditional craft in all its forms. MQ started as a group of 23 women with varied quilting experience and has grown to approximately 1,200 members. Though MQ has added 2 staff members to bring consistency to the day-to-day operations, the organization is run by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The Show

The MQ annual show and conference is the largest all-volunteer quilt show in the U.S. A committee of fifty to sixty member volunteers plan, prepare and work at the show to make it a huge success. Most volunteers sign-up for a different committee position each year, which brings fresh ideas and creative leadership to each show. Through the hard work of many volunteers, the MQ Show is now one of the premier annual quilting events in the United States that draws visitors, faculty, and quilt entries from around the world. In 2007, almost 10,000 visitors came to RiverCentre in Saint Paul, MN to view the 415 quilt entries on display and shop at 98 vendor booths. The 2008 show brought over 600 quilt entries and 98 vendors.

The Minnesota Quilters Inc. annual show and conference gives anyone interested in quilting, a place to gather for 4 days of inspiration and fun. Quilters have the opportunity to share their own work and to be inspired by the work of others. Educators have the opportunity to share their knowledge and teach beginning and advanced quilters new techniques, share projects, products and new ideas that keep the industry flourishing. Quilt shops and vendors with quilt-related merchandise have a place to share their products and services with a large audience. MQ is proud to know that the annual show is a success for everyone who attends.

When and Where

The MQ annual show and conference is traditionally scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd week of June.

Future show dates include:

June 10 – 13, 2009 in Duluth, MN

June 16 – 19, 2010 in St. Cloud, MN

June 15 – 18, 2011 in Saint Paul, MN

June TBD, 2012 in Rochester, MN

The MQ annual show visits four Minnesota locations to make attending convenient to all quilters across the state. The show currently travels to Duluth, St. Cloud, St. Paul and Rochester.

MQ Giving

The Annual Show is the main fundraising event for Minnesota Quilters, Inc. Proceeds from the show allow MQ to continue the organization's important work of supporting quilting education, documentation and service projects throughout Minnesota. Besides raising an annual operating budget, proceeds from the show allow MQ to give grants to other organizations that promote quilting. In 2007 and 2008, MQ gave \$10,000 each year to support other organizations that share our mission. These are some of the organizations that have benefited from an MQ grant this year:

- Outreach Projects
- Textile Center of Minnesota
- Minnesota State Fair, Quilt Awards
- Public Television quilting programs throughout Minnesota

Vendor Application Process

Companies interested in vending at the MQ Annual Show are asked to complete the vendor application form and send all information to the address listed by October, 8-months before the show. When applications are received by this deadline, notification of vendor status can stay on schedule.

MQ will contact you by mail in December 2008 - January 2009 to let you know the status of your application. Vendors are chosen by a volunteer vendor committee, which changes each year. Each committee has a unique way of balancing the goods and services sold at the show. MQ always receives more applications than available space for vendors at the show. Unfortunately, each year many wonderful companies are turned away because of space restrictions. The vendor selection process focuses on creating a good balance of quilt related products sold at the show. Because the show moves to 4 different cities, vendor space availability varies. Saint Paul is our largest venue with 193 single vendor booth spaces available. St. Cloud is our smallest venue with fewer booth spaces available.

Vendor contracts and show information will be sent to accepted companies in January, 5-months before the show. Vendor contracts, vendor booth payments and supporting paperwork are due in February, 4-months before the show. We ask companies who wish to decline our invitation to do so by March, 3 months before the show.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Companies who want to support the Minnesota Quilters Annual Show can do so by becoming a sponsor. Sponsors at the MQ annual show and conference choose a tax-deductible donation level of \$500, \$1,000 or \$1,500. Without our wonderful sponsors, the show could not happen. Registration and admissions revenue only covers a portion of the cost of this 4-day event. Sponsorship donations help MQ bring recognized educators to inspire students at the show, fund judged quilt awards to entice quilters to create and share their treasured quilts at the show and also fund special events that make the show memorable for everyone.

All sponsors have the opportunity to become vendors at the show without going through the vendor application and selection process. Companies who donate \$500 can rent up to 1 or 2 exhibit booth spaces. Companies who donate \$1,000 can rent up to 3 booth spaces. Companies who donate \$1,500 can rent up to 4 booth spaces. \$1,000 and \$1,500 sponsors have the opportunity to choose their preferred locations at the show. All sponsors receive priority placement on the show floor and first choice of move-in times. Sponsors are recognized in the registration book, the show book and through signage at the show. Each sponsor receives 2 complimentary Grand Banquet tickets where their company is mentioned as a show sponsor.

Companies who want to support the mission of Minnesota Quilters can learn more about sponsorship by contacting Linda Lysdahl, Show Consultant at commonthread@floatingleaf.biz.

**NON-SPONSOR VENDOR APPLICATION FORM
MINNESOTA QUILTERS, INC. 31ST ANNUAL QUILT SHOW AND CONFERENCE**

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) Duluth, MN
Quilt Exhibits and Vendors Open June 11-13, 2009
Workshops and Show Sneak Preview on June 10
Vendor Move-in and Set-up begins Tuesday, June 9th, 2009

TO BE CONSIDERED TO VEND AT THIS SHOW, SEND YOUR APPLICATION FORM BY OCTOBER 19, 2008

This information will appear in print in the 2009 show book. Please print clearly:

Vendor/Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Website: _____

This information is for Minnesota Quilters to contact you:

Contact Name and Title: _____

Alternate Telephone (if different from above): _____

E-Mail address: _____

Please indicate your preferred space:

BOOTH SIZE	COST	(INDICATE 1ST 2ND AND 3RD CHOICE)
Single Booth (8' x 10')	\$500 (Corner: +\$100)	_____
Single + ½ Booth (8' x 15')	\$750 (Corner: +\$100)	_____
Double Booth (8' x 20')	\$1000 (Corner: +\$100)	_____

Nature of business: _____

Special features of business: (What distinguishes you from other businesses and/or attracts quilters to your business? Use back if additional space is needed)

Please include up to three (3) pictures of your shop and/or booth indicating how you would present your merchandise at our show. Send photos and this application to:

**Doris Hareland
507 E River St
Monticello, MN 55362
harelandjd@soncom.com**

Questions or comments can be directed to a 2009 Vendor Committee:

**Doris Hareland
763-295-3114
harelandjd@soncom.com**

**Rita Culshaw
763-427-2947
tnrculshaw@comcast.net**

Submission of this Non-Sponsor Vendor Application does not create a binding agreement with Minnesota Quilters, Inc. and does not guarantee space on the floor.

_____ **CHECK HERE IF INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR AT FUTURE MQ SHOWS.**